

Amendment to the Claims:

In compliance with the Revised Amendment Format, a complete listing of claims is provided herein.

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1. (Previously presented) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code means therein for providing a single application programming interface, said computer readable program code means in said computer program product comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to communicate between a member of a process group of related processes and another member of said process group;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to accomplish voting on a proposed protocol among the members of said process group for synchronizing said related processes of said process group, said proposed protocol comprising a proposed action to be taken by at least one of the members of the process group; and

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to implement, or restrain from implementing, said proposed action in response to an outcome of said voting.

2. (Previously presented) The computer readable program code means in said computer program product of claim 1, further comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to manage membership of at least one of said process group and a processor group of processors.

3. (Previously presented) The computer readable program code means in said computer program product of claim 1, further comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to control a group state value for said process group, in the form

-4-

POU996048US3

of a synchronized blackboard with any changes thereto made available to the members of the process group as changes are made.

4. (Previously presented) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code means therein for providing a single application programming interface, said computer readable program code means in said computer program product comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to communicate between a member of a process group of related processes and another member of said process group;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to accomplish voting on a proposed protocol among the members of said process group for synchronizing said related processes of said process group, said proposed protocol comprising a proposed action to be taken by at least one of the members of the process group;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to implement, or refrain from implementing, said proposed action in response to an outcome of said voting;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to manage membership of said process group and a processor group of processors; and

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to control a group state value for said process group, in the form of a synchronized blackboard with any changes thereto made available to the members of the process group as the changes are made.

5. (Previously presented) The computer readable program code means in said computer program product of claim 4, further comprising computer readable program code

-5-

POU996048US3

means for causing a computer to monitor, by a member of said process group having no voting rights, one or more aspects of said process group.

6. (Previously presented) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code means therein for providing a single application programming interface, said computer readable program code means in said computer program product comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to communicate between a member of a process group of related processes and another member of said process group;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to accomplish voting on a proposed protocol among the members of said process group for synchronizing said related processes of said process group, said proposed protocol comprising a proposed action to be taken by at least one of the members of the process group, said proposed action including one of a member joining said process group or leaving said process group; and

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to implement, or restrain from implementing, said proposed action in response to an outcome of said voting.

7. (New) The computer readable program code means in said computer program product of claim 5, wherein said one or more aspects comprises at least one of a change of state and a membership change.